

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A method for detecting and remediating a memory leak, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing an aging value for an object instance created in memory;  
resetting said aging value when said object instance is referenced by an executing process;  
incrementing said aging value during a garbage collection pass when said object instance had not been referenced by an executing process since a previous garbage collection pass; and,  
when said aging value exceeds a threshold value, processing said object instance as a loiterer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said establishing step further comprises the steps of:

locating equivalent object instances in said memory; and,  
processing said equivalent object instances in said memory as loiterers.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said processing step comprises at least one of clearing at least one cache in memory, and reporting said object instance as a loiterer in a log file.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of foregoing said processing step where said object instance belongs to a specified exempt class.

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Original) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting and remediating a memory leak, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

establishing an aging value for an object instance created in memory;

resetting said aging value when said object instance is referenced by an executing process;

incrementing said aging value during a garbage collection pass when said object instance had not been referenced by an executing process since a previous garbage collection pass; and,

when said aging value exceeds a threshold value, processing said object instance as a loiterer.

14. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 13, wherein said establishing step further comprises the steps of:

locating equivalent object instances in said memory; and,

processing said equivalent object instances in said memory as loiterers.

15. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 13, wherein said processing step comprises clearing at least one cache in memory, and reporting said object instance as a loiterer in a log file.

16. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 13, further comprising the step of foregoing said processing step where said object instance belongs to a specified exempt class.